

## Message Text

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ACTION EB-03

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INFO USMISSION OECD PARIS  
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LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: UNCTAD  
SUBJECT: GERMAN SCHEDULING AND OTHER PROBLEMS WITH  
NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE

1. DURING CONVERSATION WITH ECONOMIC/COMMERCIAL  
MINISTER LATE LAST WEEK ASSISTANT SECRETARY  
LAUTENSCHLAGER, IN CHARGE OF ECONOMIC DIVISION OF THE  
FOREIGN MINISTRY, SAID THAT FRG NOW SEES SCHEDULING  
PROBLEMS FOR THE NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE IN VIEW OF THE  
POSTPONEMENT OF THE CIEC MINISTERIAL.

2. LAUTENSCHLAGER SAID THAT THE POSTPONED CIEC  
MINISTERIAL COULD NOT POSSIBLY TAKE PLACE UNTIL AFTER  
THE ECONOMIC SUMMIT, IF THERE IS ONE, WHICH WOULD  
PROBABLY MEAN A DELAY UNTIL EARLY MAY. HE RECALLED  
THAT IN THE MEANTIME WE WERE SCHEDULED TO BEGIN  
OUR COMMODITY DISCUSSIONS ON MARCH 31 AND WE WOULD  
NORMALLY HAVE AN UNCTAD MEETING, HOPEFULLY NOT A  
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MINISTERIAL IN MAY. THOUGHT WAS DEVELOPING, HOWEVER,  
IN GERMAN CIRCLES IN FAVOR OF A DELAY IN THE UNCTAD  
MEETING UNTIL EARLY AUTUMN.

3. ON SUBSTANCE LAUTENSCHLAGER SEEMED RELUCTANTLY  
RESIGNED THAT THE GERMAN POLICY ON NORTH-SOUTH ISSUES

WOULD NOT CHANGE BARRING SOME SIGNIFICANT CHANGE IN US POLICY. THIS IN TURN WOULD PROBABLY PREVENT ANY COMMON EC POLICY EVEN THOUGH HE OPINED THAT SOME SLIGHT SHIFT IN GERMAN POLICY MIGHT MAKE POSSIBLE AGREEMENT WITH FRANCE. AS A CONSEQUENCE THE COMMUNITY MEMBERS MIGHT WELL AGAIN FIND THEMSELVES SPEAKING AS INDIVIDUALS IN THE UNCTAD FORUM.

4. ECON/COMMERCIAL MINISTER REMARKED THAT IF THIS WERE THE CASE HE HOPED THAT THE GERMAN SPOKESMAN WOULD NOT REMAIN SILENT DURING UNCTAD MEETINGS SINCE THAT COULD LEAVE THE US ISOLATED UNLESS THE JAPANESE WERE WILLING TO COME FORWARD. THE ECONOMIC/COMMERCIAL MINISTER HAD EARLIER RAISED THE SAME PROBLEM WITH ASSISTANT SECRETARY STEEG IN THE ECONOMICS MINISTRY IN THE LIGHT OF CONCERNS IN GENEVA'S 9676. ON THAT OCCASION FRAU STEEG WAS SURPRISED THAT THE QUESTION SHOULD ARISE OF THE FRG SPEAKING ITS PIECE AND POINTED OUT THAT THE GERMAN REPRESENTATIVE AT THE UNCTAD GENEVA MEETING HAD INDEED BEEN AUTHORIZED TO MAKE A STATEMENT. SHE REMARKED THAT THIS IMPRESSION MIGHT HAVE COME FROM A MORE RESTRAINED ATTITUDE DURING GROUP B SESSIONS. AS FAR AS JAPAN WAS CONCERNED, NEITHER FRAU STEEG NOR LAUTENSCHLAGER WERE VERY OPTIMISTIC, AND FRAU STEEG DESCRIBED THE JAPANESE POSITION AS BEING THEY CAN ACCEPT ANYTHING AGREED TO BY THE US AND FRG.

5. COMMENT: IN SPITE OF LAUTENSCHLAGER'S CONVICTION THAT THE CURRENT FRG POSITION ON NORTH-SOUTH ISSUES LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WILL REMAIN IMMUTABLE FOR THE MOMENT, WE SENSE UNCERTAINTY AS TO WHAT THE FUTURE HOLDS. THE GERMANS ARE BEING TOLD BOTH IN BRUSSELS AND ELSEWHERE THAT US POLICY UNDER THE NEW ADMINISTRATION WILL CHANGE IN A MORE FORTHCOMING DIRECTION VIS-A-VIS THE THIRD WORLD AND THE GERMANS ARE OBVIOUSLY NERVOUS NOT TO BE LEFT ALONE AS THE LAST REMAINING "SHYLOCK" OF THE INDUSTRIALIZED WORLD. WE ARE UNDER THE CLEAR IMPRESSION, THEREFORE, THAT THE FRG WOULD WELCOME BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS BEFORE THEY OR WE MAKE FURTHER MOVES.  
STOESSEL

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